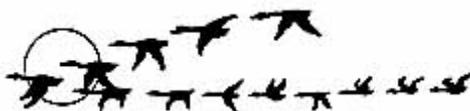


Atlantic Population Canada Geese – Ungava Peninsula

2019 Preliminary Report:

PRESEASON BANDING

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**Atlantic Flyway Technical Section
Canada Goose Committee**

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In 1997 a preseason banding program was initiated for Atlantic Population Canada Geese breeding on the Ungava Peninsula in Nunavik, in northern Québec. Each year from late July to mid-August, banding crews capture and band brood flocks of Canada Geese along the northern Hudson Bay coast and along the west coast of Ungava Bay. Helicopters are used to round up and help drive flightless geese toward funnel-shaped traps; on normal years when conditions are favourable each 5-person crew conducts, on average, 5-7 catches per day.

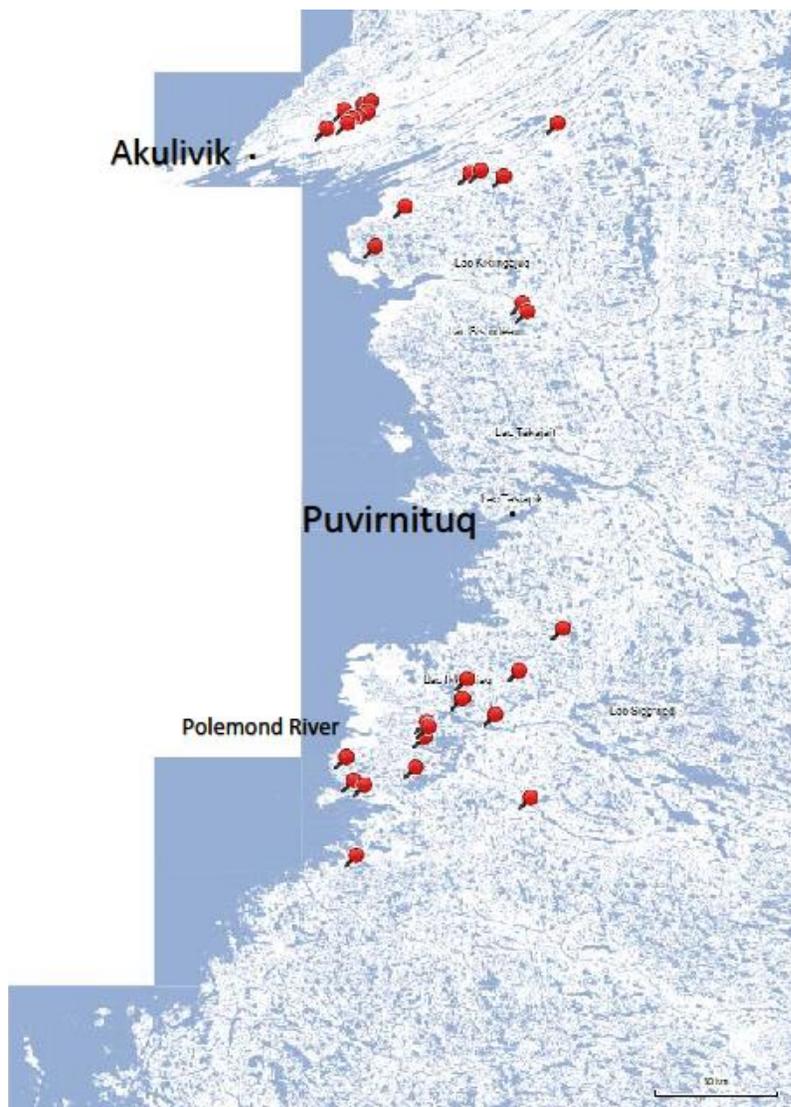
Ungava Bay – Kangirsuk

From 5 to 12 August 2019, a crew comprised of Jim Bennett (MD), Jean Rodrigue (CWS), Bill Harvey (MD), and Sandy Suppa (Makivik), along with Nunavik Rotors (A-Star) helicopter pilot Natalie D'Astous banded 1630 new geese, of which 654 were adults and 976 goslings. Additionally, 95 previously banded adults were recaptured. This results in a preliminary Immature:Adult ratio of 1.30 along the Ungava coast which is slightly higher than the long term average of 1.27.

A total of 20 catches were made, with a mean of 82 geese per catch, excluding recaptures (range: 25-215 geese); this mean is above the long-term average of 75. For the most part, the goslings were fairly old and appeared in good shape. The crew also captured and banded 5 small Canada Geese (i.e. Richardson's) and 25 Snow Geese. All catches were carried out between Aupaluk in the south and 50 km south of Quaqtuq to the north (Fig.1). Generally, the weather was cold and windy, three full days and some partial days were

A total of 30 catches were made by the crew, with a mean of 53 new geese (excluding recaptures) per catch (range: 18-137 geese); this mean is above the long-term average of 44 birds. In addition to the regular pre-season leg-banding project, 16 cellular GPS's attached to collars were fitted to adult males captured throughout the banding area, a continuum of the project started in 2017. Two and a half banding days were lost due to rain and mist. All catches were made in an area extending approximately 190 km along the northern Hudson Bay coast from east of Akulivik in the north to just south of the Polemond River in the south and extending to 40 km inland (Fig.2). The area east of Akulivik is new territory and enabled the crew to capture 45 percent of their geese in only 8 catches. Overall, in 2019, AP Canada Goose productivity along eastern Hudson Bay was near average.

Figure 2. 2019 Hudson Bay – Puvirnituk catches



Conclusion

Combining both regions, a total of 3233 new geese were banded in Nunavik, and the preliminary Immature:Adult ratio including recaptured adults (1874 juveniles/1466 adults) was 1.28. The long-term average for Nunavik is 1.28 (1997-2018). In conclusion, overall productivity of AP Canada Geese from the Ungava Peninsula in 2019 was average.